
HOUSE BILL 2139

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2007 Regular Session

By Representative Simpson

Read first time 02/09/2007. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to transportation policy goals; amending RCW
2 47.01.011, 47.01.012, and 47.06.020; and adding a new section to
3 chapter 47.01 RCW.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 47.01.011 and 1977 ex.s. c 151 s 1 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 The legislature hereby recognizes the following imperative needs
8 within the state: To create a statewide transportation development
9 plan which identifies present status and sets goals for the future; to
10 coordinate transportation modes; to promote and protect land use
11 programs required in local, state and federal law; to coordinate
12 transportation with the economic development of the state; to supply a
13 broad framework in which regional, metropolitan, and local
14 transportation needs can be related; to facilitate the supply of
15 federal and state aid to those areas which will most benefit the state
16 as a whole; to provide for public involvement in the transportation
17 planning and development process; to administer programs within the
18 jurisdiction of this title relating to the safety of the state's

1 transportation systems; and to coordinate and implement national
2 transportation policy with the state transportation planning program.

3 The legislature finds and declares that placing all elements of
4 transportation in a single department is fully consistent with and
5 shall in no way impair the use of moneys in the motor vehicle fund
6 exclusively for highway purposes.

7 Through this chapter, a unified department of transportation is
8 created. To the jurisdiction of this department will be transferred
9 the present powers, duties, and functions of the department of
10 highways, the highway commission, the toll bridge authority, the
11 aeronautics commission, and the canal commission, and the
12 transportation related powers, duties, and functions of the planning
13 and community affairs agency. The powers, duties, and functions of the
14 department of transportation must be performed in a manner consistent
15 with the policy goals set forth in RCW 47.01.012.

16 **Sec. 2.** RCW 47.01.012 and 2002 c 5 s 101 are each amended to read
17 as follows:

18 (1) It is the intent of the legislature to establish policy goals
19 for the planning, operation, performance of, and investment in, the
20 state's transportation system. The policy goals ~~((shall consist of,~~
21 ~~but not be limited to,))~~ established under this section are deemed
22 consistent with the ~~((following))~~ benchmark categories~~((,))~~ adopted by
23 the state's blue ribbon commission on transportation on November 30,
24 2000. ~~((In addition to improving safety,))~~ Public investments in
25 transportation shall support achievement of these ~~((and other~~
26 ~~priority))~~ policy goals:

27 ~~((No interstate highways, state routes, and local arterials shall~~
28 ~~be in poor condition; no bridges shall be structurally deficient, and~~
29 ~~safety retrofits shall be performed on those state bridges at the~~
30 ~~highest seismic risk levels; traffic congestion on urban state highways~~
31 ~~shall be significantly reduced and be no worse than the national mean;~~
32 ~~delay per driver shall be significantly reduced and no worse than the~~
33 ~~national mean; per capita vehicle miles traveled shall be maintained at~~
34 ~~2000 levels; the nonauto share of commuter trips shall be increased in~~
35 ~~urban areas; administrative costs as a percentage of transportation~~
36 ~~spending shall achieve the most efficient quartile nationally; and the~~

1 ~~state's public transit agencies shall achieve the median cost per~~
2 ~~vehicle revenue hour of peer transit agencies, adjusting for the~~
3 ~~regional cost of living.))~~

4 (a) Preservation: To maintain, preserve, and extend the life and
5 utility of prior investments in transportation systems and services;

6 (b) Safety: To provide for and improve the safety and security of
7 transportation customers and the transportation system;

8 (c) Mobility: To improve the predictable movement of goods and
9 people throughout Washington state;

10 (d) Environment: To enhance Washington's quality of life through
11 transportation investments that promote energy conservation, enhance
12 healthy communities, and protect the environment;

13 (e) Stewardship: To be effective managers of the transportation
14 system.

15 (2) These policy goals shall be the basis for establishment of
16 detailed and measurable performance benchmarks.

17 (3) It is the intent of the legislature that the transportation
18 commission establish performance measures to ensure transportation
19 system performance at local, regional, and state government levels, and
20 the transportation commission should work with appropriate government
21 entities to accomplish this.

22 **Sec. 3.** RCW 47.06.020 and 1993 c 446 s 2 are each amended to read
23 as follows:

24 The specific role of the department in transportation planning
25 shall be: (1) Ongoing coordination and development of statewide
26 transportation policies that guide all Washington transportation
27 providers; (2) ongoing development of a statewide multimodal
28 transportation plan that includes both state-owned and state-interest
29 facilities and services; (3) coordinating the state high-capacity
30 transportation planning and regional transportation planning programs;
31 ~~((and))~~ (4) conducting special transportation planning studies that
32 impact state transportation facilities or relate to transportation
33 facilities and services of statewide significance; and (5) implementing
34 the duties established in section 4 of this act. Specific requirements
35 for each of these state transportation planning components are
36 described in this chapter.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 47.01 RCW
2 to read as follows:

3 To support the achievement of the policy goals described in RCW
4 47.01.012, the department shall:

5 (1) Maintain an inventory and analysis of the condition of
6 structures and corridors;

7 (2) Develop long-term financing plans that sustainably support
8 ongoing maintenance and preservation of the transportation system;

9 (3) Accommodate and balance the safety and convenience of all users
10 of the transportation system, including pedestrians, bicyclists,
11 transit users, freight, and motor vehicle drivers, in all types of
12 transportation and development projects and through all phases of a
13 project so that even the most vulnerable persons, such as children,
14 senior citizens, and persons with disabilities, can travel safely
15 within the public right-of-way;

16 (4) Seek a reduction in the per capita vehicle miles traveled;

17 (5) In an effort to reduce emissions that contribute to global
18 warming, assess each project's estimated total carbon emissions
19 calculated over the full projected life cycle of the project;

20 (6) Include in each project analysis a list of alternative
21 approaches that would result in lesser carbon emissions including, but
22 not limited to, transit operations, transit capital investments, demand
23 management tools, and nonmotorized mode accommodations;

24 (7) Utilize, to the greatest extent possible, efficiency tools,
25 including high-occupancy vehicle and high-occupancy toll lanes,
26 corridor-specific and systemwide pricing strategies, active traffic
27 management, commute trip reduction, and other demand management tools;

28 (8) Promote integrated multimodal planning, incorporating a variety
29 of modal approaches to achieve the greatest efficiencies in movement of
30 goods and people in a specific corridor or project;

31 (9) Evaluate and prioritize projects based upon:

32 (a) Projects that provide the most consistent and efficient
33 movement of goods and people through the transportation system;

34 (b) Those structures and corridors in most urgent need of
35 retrofitting or rehabilitation; and

36 (c) Those projects that have a lower carbon emission output and

1 encourage a reduction in vehicle miles traveled.

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